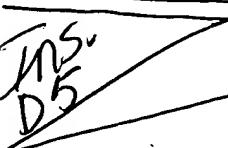


a step portion having a step hinged to a mounting portion such that a step portion may be moved from a first position, wherein the step is disposed above the vehicle hitch and usable with or without the hitch being in use, to a second, stowed position;

wherein said mounting portion includes a body member adapted to be engaged between a mounting base of a pintle hook towing hitch and said vehicle.



REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Final Office Action of April 20, 2001 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

The Examiner is also thanked for indication of allowable subject matter in claim 35. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claim 35 and add new claim 38. Claim 35 has merely been rewritten as independent claim 38. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and reconsideration is requested.

Specifically, the Examiner alleges "*Claim 3 recites a tubular socket receiver towing hitch. Applicant does not show this embodiment with the added limitations in claim 1 which*